



COMMUNITY COURIER

The VOICE of Business

May is Chamber of Commerce Month

At its April 23 meeting, Council proclaimed May 2018 to be Chamber of Commerce Month in Yorkton.

The Chamber requested the proclamation to mark the Chamber's **120th Anniversary**. In celebration of this milestone, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual conference and AGM in Yorkton May 9 & 10. The Yorkton Chamber will host its 20th Annual Business Dinner May 9 with Janet Bannister, founder of kijiji.ca and partner in Real Ventures as the Guest Speaker.

The Certificate of Formation for the Yorkton and District Board of Trade was signed January 18, 1898. The first President was J. S. Crearer. Presidents in other milestone years include Dr. M. C. Novak, 1948; Larry Hilworth, 1998; and Lori Walsh in 2008; Allan Bailey in 1967 - Canada's Centennial; and James Wilson in 2005 - the Province's centennial. Winnie Spence was elected President in 1973 - the first woman to hold that post. Since then, ten women have

served as President. Dr. T. A. Patrick was the first Secretary Treasurer of the organization.

The building in which the Yorkton Chamber is now located is jointly owned by the City of Yorkton and the Chamber of Commerce. In October 1996, the Chamber and Tourism Yorkton moved into the newly constructed building. A Grand Opening was held in June 1997.

The Chamber was awarded Accreditation status in January 2018 by the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada for achieving "the standard in Chamber excellence".

As "the voice of business in Yorkton", the Chamber's primary role is to advocate for business. It currently has a number of files in which it is working on behalf of business owners experiencing difficulties. Other roles of the Chamber include providing educational and networking opportunities for its members. Guest speakers are invited to address the Chamber's members on

topics relevant to business at the various Business Breakfasts and Lunches held throughout the year. Attendance at these events enables members to network one-on-one.

Membership in the Chamber is an investment in a business. In addition to the advocacy, networking and educational opportunities, Chamber members have access to affinity programs that help to make their businesses more competitive.



At the request of the Chamber, at a recent meeting of Council, Council proclaimed May as Chamber of Commerce month in the City. Following the proclamation, Mayor Bob Maloney presented a Certificate of Proclamation to President Mike Popowich and Director Donna Brothwell.

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 Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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Congratulations!

- To **Harvest Meats** on 90 years in business
- To **Thorsness Appliances** for 35 years in business
- To **Parrish & Heimbecker** on doing business in Yorkton for 75 years
- To **Yorkton Lions Club** on 75 years since Charter
- To **Welcome Home Floral & Gift Shop** on 20 years in business
- To **ServiceMaster** on 5 years of doing business in Yorkton

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40 Bull Crescent
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Fas Gas Plus
150 Broadway Street West
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Gas Station/Convenience Store

Interested in becoming a Chamber Member? Call the Chamber office at 783-4368

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL April 2018

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CAA Saskatchewan • Discovery Motor Sport
Aspen Bluffs Villa • Parkland Printers • Vintage Vault
Custom Printers • Rock FM 98.5 • Parkland Outdoor Show
Gallagher Centre • SaskTel • Access Communications
Yorkton Exhibition • Performance Promotions
Yorkton Cardinals Baseball • Sherring Gold Jewellers
Back 40 Brewery • Gerein Appraisals • Save On Foods
Kambusters Drag Racing • KM Auto Care • Farm Credit Canada
Grain Millers Canada • A & W Restaurants • NAPA
Auto Electric Service • Yorkton Concrete Services
Yorkton Coop • Good Earths Shop • Tim Hortons
St. Mary's Cultural Centre • Painted Hand Casino
Ramada Hotel • St. Gerard's Hall • Good Spirit Air Services

Just to mention a few . . .

YBID & Chamber Meet

Representatives from YBID met recently with the Chamber's Business Development Committee to discuss how the two organizations could work together to promote the business community and the city. It was agreed that attracting people to the city to set up businesses and to visit the city's facilities and

attend or participate in the events are all ways to have a positive impact on the business community. The reps from each organization will take the suggestions from the discussion back to their respective Boards. The intention is to meet again in June and invite Tourism Yorkton to join us.



Chris Bogdan, Chamber; Mervin Laird, YBID Chair; Phil DeVos, YBID ED; Ken Chyz, YBID; Mike Popowich Chamber President; Gale Pelletier, YBID; Corey Werner, Chamber; Bob Knox, Chamber; and Juanita Polegi, Chamber ED (taking the photo) engaged in an interesting and informative discussion at a recent meeting.

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Provincial Budget Hits City



At a Media Conference following the delivery of the April 10 Provincial Budget, Mayor Bob Maloney explained the impact of the Budget on city revenues. In essence, the city has lost \$1million annually in predictable revenue. To read Mayor Maloney's statement in its entirety, visit www.yorkton.ca for the Media Release listed under Hot Topics

On April 10, the Government of Saskatchewan delivered its new Budget and the news was not good for Yorkton's taxpayers. This is why:

- The contract the City has had with the government since 1959, whereby the City would receive the funds from a 5% surcharge on all Sask Power and SaskEnergy bills in the city, was unilaterally terminated by the government prior to delivering its Budget in March 2017.
- Together with changes to revenue sharing, that pulled \$1.7 million out of the City's nearly \$29 million net budget without warning. When the government was informed of the great hardship such a loss would put on the city's coffers, it "gave back" \$700 thousand with no guarantee the city would see that amount in 2018.
- When the 2018 Budget was delivered, there were no unpleasant surprises for the City. Mayor Maloney indicated that the government discussed

with the municipalities its intentions so the municipalities were prepared.

- Having said that, Yorkton is once again a "loser". While the government has provided Yorkton with \$500 thousand through a 5% surcharge from SaskEnergy, this left Yorkton short \$200 thousand compared to last year's budget. The government, not wishing to see any municipality "worse off than in 2017" has backfilled Yorkton's budget with that amount.
- **The bottom line is that, as a result of the 2017 and 2018 Provincial Budgets, Yorkton has lost \$1 million each year.**

At a Media Conference held the day following the Budget, Mayor Maloney explained that Yorkton is harder hit by the termination of the agreements with SaskPower and SaskEnergy because Yorkton has a larger industrial sector than residential sector as compared to other cities of similar size. He described the former SaskEnergy and SaskPower payments as "predictable" and "own source funding" which meant those funds were used by the City to help pay for its own infrastructure and other capital costs.

The province wants to make things "fair" through a new revenue sharing plan. Revenue sharing is different than money obtained through contracts. Further, the province's attempt to be "fair" to all cities has proven to be very unfair to Yorkton. In essence, as Vice President Mike Stackhouse summed it up, "Yorkton is paying as much as it ever was but is receiving much less in return."

The Chamber is extremely concerned about this loss because it puts the Yorkton business community at a disadvantage. The government's ploy to be "fair" provides "new" money for some cities which has a

Upcoming Dates to Remember

May 14 - 19

Spring Yard Waste Clean Up

May 24 - 27

71st Annual Yorkton Film Festival

May 31

Chamber Business Lunch with Guest Speaker Chris Dekker, CEO of STEP at St. Gerard's Parish Hall

June 29

Deadline for submitting nominations for Sask Chamber's ABEX Awards

July 5 - 8

Yorkton Exhibition

Oct 3

Celebrate Success Business Awards - watch for details

positive impact on their property taxes. The cities which have been treated unfairly, such as Yorkton, will ultimately have their property taxes negatively impacted which hurts Yorkton businesses.

If you, too, are concerned about the province's actions and the impact these will have on Yorkton, email Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA yorkton.mla@sasktel.net or call 306-783-7275; or email Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations minister.gr@gov.sk.ca or call 306-787-6100.

Note: As a result of the Government of Saskatchewan's new surcharge on SaskEnergy, Saskatoon's City Council was able to drop their tax rate by 0.9% as the city received an extra \$5 million in funding...



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Did You Know?

• Parrish & Heimbecker has embarked on another expansion. Phase 1 is the construction of a plant which is designed to hold 6,000 mt of fertilizer. It will include a Procoat Micronutrient

system for blending micro nutrients with dry fertilizer. The facility will be operational in the summer of 2018. Phase 2 will include a large chemical storage shed

Cannabis 101: Cannabis and the Workplace - Realities, Rights, and Responsibilities

A full-day seminar was hosted by the Yorkton Chamber for employers who are unsure of what their workplace-related rights and responsibilities will be once legal cannabis comes into effect. All participants had an opportunity to ask questions of the two expert presenters to ensure that their businesses are prepared for the changes brought by legal cannabis.

Thank you to Worksafe Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce for their sponsorship of this event.



Amy Groothuis, Labour and Employment Lawyer with Miller Thomson LLP explained the main provisions of Bill C-45 the Cannabis Act, as well as the rights and responsibilities of both employees and employers in the workplace

She provided information around an employer's duty to accommodate; distinguishing between recreational and medical cannabis use; the legality of drug testing protocols in Canada and much more.



Boye Adetogun, Consulting Manager, MNP LLP facilitated a hands-on drug and alcohol policymaking workshop in the afternoon. Attendees left with a draft policy for their own workplace.

Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting



At the Chamber's recent AGM, President Mike Popowich presented a plaque to Brent Murdock in appreciation for his service as the 2017 President.

Mayor Bob Maloney delivered his "State of the City" address during the Chamber's recent AGM. Mayor Maloney said that the average annual cost per household to the city for providing the basket of city services (including water, sewer, snow removal, police & fire protection, libraries, street lights, roadways, parks - to name a few) is \$155 per month. He also said the debt owed for the Gallagher Centre will be paid off in 2020 and that the city is "ready to deal" on the lots and land it has available for development.



Show You're a Proud Chamber Member

If your business is a member in good standing of the Yorkton Chamber, why not let everyone know? You can link your website to the Chamber's and check the Member Roster on the Chamber's website to ensure there's a live link to your business. And you could incorporate the Yorkton Chamber's logo into your website and advertising. By



adding the Chamber logo to your marketing materials, you're showing your customers and suppliers that you invest in your business and community by being a Chamber member. Be a proud Yorkton Chamber member and begin using the Chamber logo in your marketing plans now.